

THE MESSENGER

In this Issue:

A Message From Your Pastors.....	1
What A Time!.....	2-3
Grace Notes.....	4
Lent/Bible Study/Singing Opportunities.....	5
First Communion/Palm Sunday.....	6
Holy Week.....	7
VBS/Bear Creek.....	8
Youth & Family Ministries/Sunday School + Worship	9
Day Care/Preschool News.....	10
Recognition of All Stewards/WELCA.....	11
Homebound Birthdays/Seasonal Dedications....	12
In Recognition/Anniversary Sunday.....	13
Thank You!.....	14
Pastoral Acts.....	15
Giving/Average Worship Attendance.....	16
Church Council Highlights.....	17
St. John's Staff.....	18

St. John's Website:

<https://www.stjohnsnaz.org>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsnaz>

Holy Week and Easter Worship

MARCH 28

7:30pm: Maundy Thursday/Stripping of the Altar
(Live-Streamed)

MARCH 29

12:00pm: Good Friday Services
7:30pm: Tenebrae Service (Live-Streamed)

MARCH 30 at 5:30pm:

Easter Vigil with Holy Communion
(Live-streamed)

MARCH 31 at 8:00am + 10:30am:

Easter Sunday with Holy Communion
Festival, Chalice, and Children's Choirs

Worship with us

Wednesdays in March

7:30pm in the Shepherd's Room

Weekend Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30pm

Sunday School at 9:15am

Sundays at 8:00am and 10:30am



If you have had a change of mailing address, email address, and/or phone number, please notify the church office at office@stjohnsnaz.org or 610-759-3090 ext. 100. Please help us to keep you informed and to avoid changes from the post office for returned mail.

Go to **St. Johns Facebook page and YouTube channel** for
our livestream at **5:30 pm** every **Saturday**

A Message From Your Pastors

How is your Lent going? Can you sense the presence of God in the ordinary and everyday?

We began our year with ordinary and everyday words on the day of Epiphany. Many of us chose Star Words. Pastor Jennifer was given “connection.” Pastor Scott was given “rest.” We continue to explore how God is guiding us through these words. We pray that God is guiding you through ordinary and everyday words.

As you read this we are in the midst of Lent. We started on Valentine’s Day with remembering whose we are, where we come from, and to where we will return – all grounded in that great mercy and love of God in our lives. Everyday, ordinary dust or ash proclaimed this to us. Then we started our way through the gospel of Mark with Jesus driven into the wilderness to prepare for his ministry and the numerous predictions of his great suffering to come. In March we dive into John’s gospel to watch Jesus turn over the tables in the temple. We hear about this great love and light in our lives as we are commanded to lose our lives for the sake of the gospel – for Jesus’ sake.

On Wednesdays we are talking with one another about God’s presence in our lives through the everyday ordinary items – bread, cross, coins, shoes, and oil – all items asking us to open our eyes and hearts to God in the here and now. As you enjoyed that homemade bread from Sweets N Savories Bakery, did you talk with those in your home or think to yourself about the many ways that God provides daily sustenance and give thanks to those who provide for you? From chefs, bakers, food producers, grocers, car maintenance, caregivers, sidewalk repairs – the list goes on. The network of God’s love through common vocations and everyday items is enormous!

Lent continues in March and ends in the final week of the month with our Holy Week experience as we journey with Jesus from the raising of palms and giving thanks for this king in our midst, to being fed at the table, to hearing about how Jesus was betrayed, beaten and killed, as we sit and wait remembering who we are in God’s baptismal grace, then finally to celebrating once again this gift of life and salvation. The flowers will adorn the sanctuary and children will flower the cross and throw up a parachute in joy!

Then the work begins! Yes, Easter season continues in April. We will jump between Luke and John’s accounting of Jesus’ teachings. We will be invited to forgive sins, ask questions of our faith, trust in the good shepherd, and abide with Christ in all things. This is how we live as one in Christ’s body and one in community with one another. Ordinary, everyday things – lived in extraordinary ways. This is our gift of faith. This is our life together. For this we give thanks!

We pray that you make time this Lent and Easter season to hear and see God in the ordinary, to be challenged by the invitation to live in community and to spend time together and alone with God as your star word guides you in faith.

In Christ’s Joy,
Pastor Jennifer & Pastor Scott



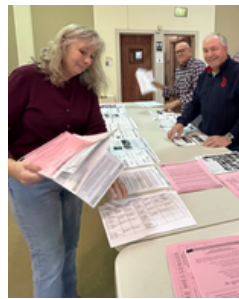
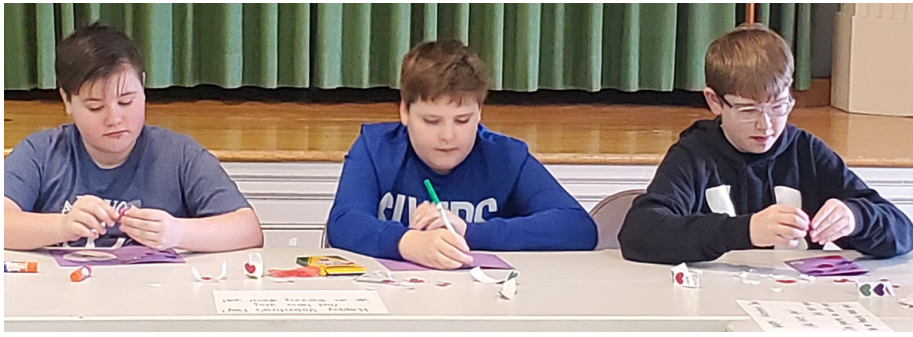
What A Time!

Relive and enjoy the Spirit-filled presence of God in this place. Sunday School Christmas Program, Christmas Eve worship, volunteers galore working to set our space and mail our communications, visit from the Three Kings (even amidst a snow storm!), making Valentine's for our homebound members, Transfiguration weekend, sharing our gifts, fellowship, fun, and more.

Thank you God for these community filled opportunities.



What A Time!





Grace Notes



Many years ago while serving at my previous church in Evanston, Illinois, area church musicians planned for an annual children's choir festival to take place sometime in the Spring, usually after Easter. In trying to find an appropriate date, one colleague once made the remark that "Easter always seems to be early or late. When is it ever on time?" Ever since I first heard that comment, it has stuck with me; and when looking at the date of Easter each year, it always makes me smile and remember my organist friend.

This year, we consider Easter to be early, at the end of March. But looking ahead, next year's celebration will certainly be late, April 20, 2025, to be exact. Most of us know that Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that appears on or after the spring equinox. It's a moveable celebration that can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

Leading up to Easter we observe the Lenten season for forty days of spiritual disciplines, soul searching, Bible study, fasting, simplicity, prayer, and reflection. We begin our devotional practices on Ash Wednesday, continue the observance as we gather for worship on five Wednesday evenings, and then journey through Holy Week. Ultimately this all leads up to the joyous day of Christ's resurrection and our celebration on Easter Sunday.

Always falling on a Sunday, Easter is a day when the music is glorious, the smell of lilies permeates the sanctuary, alleluias return, and children are filled with the excitement of an Easter egg hunt. But by the next day, many people return to work, the dyed hard-boiled eggs are soon gobbled up, and the Easter candy has all but disappeared from the stores. To many, it seems that Easter is effectively over.

Yet that couldn't be further from the truth. Easter is not a single day, but a whole season stretching from Easter Sunday and continuing for fifty days to the festival of Pentecost. Eastertide, also known as the Great Fifty Days, continues after Easter Sunday as we hear in scripture about the various appearances of Jesus to his disciples. Then on the fortieth day, he physically ascends into heaven. Finally, on the fiftieth day, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit which guides us into continuing God's work on earth.

Although most Christians are disciplined about observing the full Lenten season, it seems to be forgotten by the average churchgoer that Easter is a complete festival of fifty days. It's a time to celebrate the new life that God continues to bring forth in our lives and in the world around us. A pastor I once knew made it a point that parishioners should find something that brings renewal, new life, and joy in every day leading up to Pentecost, marking the fifty days after Easter Sunday. Eastertide is a time to remind ourselves that resurrection isn't something God did on that first Easter, but it's what God does and continues to do each day.

May this Lenten season be fulfilling and meaningful as we prepare for the great festival day of Easter on March 31. And although it might be early this year, our resurrection celebration will continue for fifty more days! Lenten blessings and a joyous Easter to all!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Janice Butz, Minister of Music



Lenten Series Continues

Wednesdays in March

Wednesdays, March 6 - March 20

6:15pm: Lenten Soup Suppers, conversations in the Fellowship Hall

7:30pm: Worship in the Shepherd's Room with Holden Evening Prayer

Each Wednesday during the Lenten season, we will engage with a series called *Lent in Plain Sight*. We will

seek to discover how God is present to us and works through us in ordinary, everyday encounters. Through objects like bread, crosses, coins, shoes, and oil, we will raise our awareness of how God is active in our lives and calling us into service. Come and join us for these holy moments.



Bible Study

Jesus' Final Week: A Five-Week Lenten Series **Wednesday, February 21 - March 20, 11:30am**

Our Wednesday Bible Study will walk through the events of the final days in the life of our Savior. Join us each Wednesday at 11:30, February 21 through March 20, as we follow our Lord from the triumph of Palm Sunday, to the heartbreak of Good Friday, to the joy of Easter Sunday. All four gospels will prepare us to experience Holy Week: the week that changed the world. Feel free to bring some lunch along with your appetite for the Word of God. Watch future church communications for the new topic of learning that will begin after Easter.

Belonging to Jesus **Wednesdays, 6:15pm** **Beginning after Easter**

Let's dive in to the story of Jesus and the woman from Samari that we hear in John, chapter 4. As we ground ourselves in this faithful story, we will explore our sense of belonging to Jesus Christ, our own life as a disciple and our work as a community. Pastor Jennifer will lead our study based on the book titled *Belonging* by Karoline Lewis. Books will be provided at our first class. Watch church communications for the exact start date and talk to Pastor Jennifer if you have any questions. See you around the discovery table!

Singing Opportunities for Lent

Men's Chorale for Lent

In March, the men will have a turn to sing for a Wednesday evening Lenten service. This singing opportunity is open to all men of St. John's who enjoy singing, whether you are regular choir member or just want to make a short-term commitment. The Men's Chorale will **sing for our Wednesday evening Lenten service on March 13** and will rehearse at 9:15am on Sundays, March 3 & 10, as well as Thursday evening, March 7 at 6:30pm. Multiple rehearsals are scheduled with the hope that singers will be able to make at least one of the rehearsals. Come join us in the choir room!



First Holy Communion Instruction

11:30am, Sunday, March 17
For Children (typically 4th graders) and Their Families
After 10:30am worship until 2:30pm
In the Fellowship Hall
Lunch Provided!



St. John's will be offering First Communion instruction for our young worshippers. The instruction typically takes place in 4th grade but any child is welcome. Please speak to the pastors if your child is asking to receive communion. The children and their entire families are invited to attend this interactive workshop that will include a light lunch. Children who complete the workshop will **receive their First Holy Communion at worship on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30pm.**

RSVP by March 10 to 610-759-3090 or office@stjohnsnaz.org and let us know how many will be coming to lunch and the name(s) of the child(ren) who will be receiving First Holy Communion.

Palm Sunday Procession Thru Nazareth

a.k.a. - Donkey Walk

Sunday, March 24, 9:15am

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Meet in the **fellowship hall by 9:15am** where we will follow a real, live donkey through the streets of Nazareth. We begin our walk on Prospect Street, we make our way up Broad Street to Center Street and on to the Square. At the Square, we will have a brief service honoring the day. We then return to fellowship hall for light refreshments with worship to follow at 10:30am.



Everyone is invited to join in the procession on **Sunday, March 24**, just as people did on the first Palm Sunday.



Palm Crosses

We need help!

Anyone who would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday, please come to the fellowship hall on **Friday, March 22 at 6:00pm.** Kindly bring a pair of scissors to use.



HOLY WEEK



Throughout Holy Week there will be many opportunities to worship. It is the time when the church remembers the greatest events in God's salvation history, when God in Christ revealed the depth and the breadth of God's love for us. Participation in Holy Week worship leads to a joyous Easter as we shout in acclamation, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

- MARCH 24:** Palm Sunday / Blessing of the Palms (8:00am)
Donkey Walk (9:15am)
- MARCH 28:** Maundy Thursday / Stripping of the Altar, Live-Streamed (7:30pm)
- MARCH 29:** Good Friday Services, (12:00pm) + (7:30pm - Live-streamed)
- MARCH 30:** Holy Easter Vigil with Holy Communion, Live-streamed (5:30pm)
- MARCH 31:** Easter Sunday with Holy Communion (8:00am + 10:30am)

Maundy Thursday

At this service we hear Jesus' commandment, mandate ("maundy"), to love one another. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35, NRSV). Join us as we honor this day of servanthood and celebrate Holy Communion with those receiving for the first time.



Good Friday Evening Tenebrae Service

The word "tenebrae" is Latin for darkness. The church is brilliantly lit at the beginning of the service. The gradual dimming of the lights and extinguishing of candles represents the growing isolation of Jesus on the cross until there is total darkness. Come and experience the true meaning of the cross fulfilled.



Easter Vigil

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. Come experience the heart of God's promise to us that we are renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ.



Easter Sunday

Join us as we boldly proclaim that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! New life springs forth in the sanctuary as we celebrate the love of God that cannot be stopped.



Youth & Family Ministries

Mark Your Calendars - VBS, June 17-21



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School is splashing into St. John's from June 17-21!
Stay tuned for registration information.

Bear Creek Camp Summer Discount Code



It is time to register! In partnership with the Youth Education Outreach Endowment, St. John's a discount code is available for \$200 or \$350 off the registration fee (depending on the type of camp week you attend). You can find the code on the Bear Creek Camp display board at the church. Talk to Michele Seaton if you have any questions.

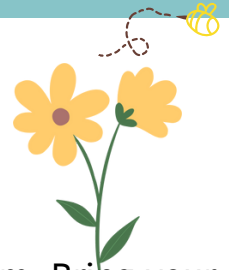
Bear Creek Camp is for anyone who has completed grade 1 through grade 12. This summer's theme is One In Love. "The part of you in me and the part of me in you will keep us all together - one in love. GO IN PEACE."

Summer camp begins June 16 and runs through August 9. There is something for everyone! Visit bearcreekcamp.org to find out more about camp.



Youth & Family Ministries

Upcoming Events



March

MARCH 22: Palm Cross Making will take place on Friday, March 22 at 6:00pm. Bring your whole family and friends to learn how to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday! We have a lot to make and need many helpers. Bring a pair of scissors to use.

MARCH 24: Palm Sunday Donkey Walk will take place on March 24 at 9:15am. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall. We leave promptly at 9:15am to follow the donkey to the Nazareth Circle. This event is rain or shine, so please plan accordingly. After, we will return to the church for refreshments and extra time to meet the donkey!

MARCH 31: Easter Egg Hunt in all Sunday School classrooms on Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:15am.

April

APRIL 12-14: Confirmation Retreat - The Confirmation Retreat will be held for all Confirmation students from Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14 at Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center. Permission forms and additional information will be sent in early March.

APRIL 20-21: Youth Service Weekend - Youth Service Weekend will take place at both services on April 20 - 21. All youth in 7-12 grades are encouraged to participate.

APRIL 21: Sunday School + Worship - Sunday, April 21. Bring the whole family at 9:15am for a combined Sunday School and Worship Service. This service will be led by our youth in 7th - 12th grades.

APRIL 21: Youth Gathering Meeting - All youth participants and adult leaders attending the Youth Gathering, as well as youth participants' parents will gather for a meeting on April 21 at 10:30am in the Youth Room.

Sunday School + Worship

Youth Led Worship Weekend

Sunday, April 21

9:15am, fellowship to follow

One Sunday worship only
Saturday, 5:30pm will be live-streamed.



St. John's Daycare

We had a great start to the new year with our friends. Now, the daycare is ready to bring in spring while we focus on Storybook Adventures and Space. We will be talking about different children's authors and learning about the solar system.

We also have some fundraisers happening over the next couple of months including a flower sale and a hoagie sale, to help raise funds for our summer camp activities. Our Pre-K friends are practicing their songs for graduation and getting ready for their big performance in June.



Love-A-Lot Preschool

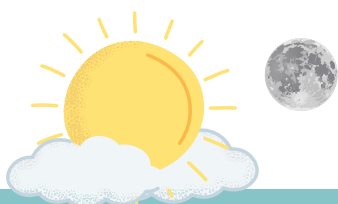


Over the past 2 months, Love-A-Lot has been busy teaching-up little world and galaxy travelers. We took a journey around the world at Christmas time, and in January we learned all about SPACE! Our students took a trip to the sun, the moon, the stars, and from Mercury to Neptune (and all the planets in between!). They learned that the sun is a star, the moon lights up because of the sun, Venus is covered in volcanoes, Mars is the red planet, Saturn has rings, Jupiter is a GIANT planet made of gas, Uranus is the ice planet, and Neptune is the windy planet.

In February we learned about and practiced showing love and being a good friend. Our students exchanged Valentine's cards with each other, made a friendship mix, and played a buddy freeze dance. We also learned about a student favorite: DINOSAURS! We created fossils from blocks and model magic, set up a dinosaur adoption center in our Pretend center, and marched to Laurie Berkner's "We are the Dinosaurs!"

We can't wait to see what March and April will bring for our classes. So far, we have planned to learn about our 5 senses and pond life, we will talk about the meaning of Easter and have egg hunts in each of our classes, take a trip to the library to visit Ms. Catherine and Ms. Berry, and take our annual field trip to explore the Crayola Experience with our PreK kiddos! It will be busy but so much fun!

If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Preschool or Pre-K program, please contact us directly for more information. Registration is open for the 2024-2025 school year! For more information, please contact the school by phone (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com).



Recognition of All Stewards

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!!

At all services on **April 27 + 28** we celebrate those in our church family who use their God-given talents to further God's kingdom by their involvement in the committees and ministries carried out through St. John's.

We are grateful for their dedicated service and offer this list of the many ways that you, too, can become involved.

Acolyte	Day Care Board of Directors	Media Ministry
Adopt-A-Highway	Deliver Flowers to Shut-Ins	Personnel Committee
Altar Flower Sponsors	Eucharistic Ministry Team	Philethia Choir
Altar Guild	Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee	Prayer Chain
Archive/History Committee	Faith Formation Teacher	Property Committee
Bulletin/Messenger Assembly	Faith Through the Arts	Seasonal Decorations
Bulletin Sponsors	Festival Choir	Stewardship Committee
CD Ministry Sponsors	Finance/Endowment Committee	Sunday Fellowship Hosts
Cemetery Board	Golf Committee	Sunday School Teacher/Aide
Chancel Choir	Greeters	Ushers
Chalice Choir (youth)	Grief Ministry	Vacation Bible School
Christian Education Comm.	Handbell Choir	Vocalist/Soloist/Ensemble
Church Council	Helping Hands	Women of the ELCA
Celebration Choir (children)	Instrumentalist/Ensemble	Worship & Music Committee
Creation Choir (children)	Katherine Von Bora Society	Youth Group
Columbarium Committee	Ladies Aid Society (Quilters)	
Confirmation Teachers	Lectors (Scripture Reading)	And so much more.....
Counting Teams	Love-A-Lot Preschool	

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (Good News Translation).



All women are invited to join us in study and fellowship.

RUTH CIRCLE

MARCH 6: Wednesday at 9:30am in the Parlor

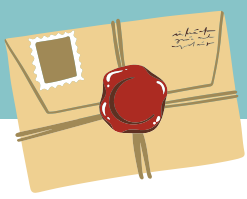
APRIL 3: Wednesday at 9:30am in the Parlor

REBEKAH CIRCLE

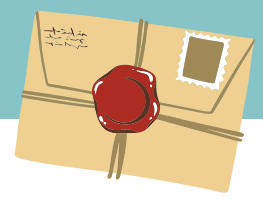
MARCH 4: Monday at 7:00pm in the Parlor

APRIL 8: Monday at 7:00pm in the Parlor





Homebound Birthdays



Let's spread some joy to our homebound friends who are celebrating birthdays in the coming months.



March 14

Shirley Bajan

MHS – Room 2021
175 W. North St.
Nazareth, PA
18064

March 29

Carol Birchak

Bear Creek Lake
Community
14 White Birch Lane
Jim Thorpe, PA
18229

March 29

Ron Hontz

Genesis Rehab –
Room 220B
2600 Northampton St.
Easton, PA 18045



April 3

Karen Landis

Arden Courts of Old
Orchard Rm. 41
4098 Freemansburg
Ave.
Easton, PA 18045

April 11

Millie Sours

Alexandria Manor –
Rm. 316
7 S. New St.
Nazareth, PA 18064

April 23

Errol Betzenberger

558 Mountain View
Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064

April 27

Sandra Strausser

451 Apt. A
Jenna Ln. South
Easton, PA 18045

Seasonal Decorations Dedications

If you would like to contribute to the cost of Seasonal Decorations, including Lilies in the nave for the Easter worship service, please complete the form below and return it to the Church Office. The cost is \$12.00 per dedication. Money must accompany the sponsor form and **must be in the Church Office no later than Monday, March 18, 2024**. No sponsor forms after this date, please. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and please put "Seasonal Decorations" in the memo line.

YOUR NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Number of Dedications (at \$12.00 each) _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____ Please PRINT clearly. ONE dedication per plant.

Check In Honor	One In Memory	DEDICATED TO (Please PRINT the dedication as you want it to appear in the bulletin)	DEDICATED BY (FROM)

Recognizing 25 Years of Ministry at St. John's

On February 1, 1999, Rev. Janice Butz was called to St. John's as the Minister of Music. Over the past 25 years she has graced us with music, leadership, choirs, and vision.

We are grateful for her ministry here and beyond. On Sunday, February 4 at the 10:30am service we honored Janice with flowers, prayer, cake and fellowship. Thank you Janice for all that you do!



Thank You!

What a wonderful surprise it was on the first Sunday in February when I was blessed to be recognized for my 25 years in ministry at St. John's. I give thanks not only for the bouquet of flowers and the delicious cake, but most importantly for all the wonderful members and friends at St. John's who so enthusiastically support our music ministry. The singers, the instrumentalists, the staff, council members, and those in the pews make St. John's a loving, supportive, and dedicated congregation. Thanks for the many blessings you have given me, and thanks be to God!

With gratitude,
Rev. Janice Butz

Anniversary Sunday

May 5, 2024

Are you celebrating your 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversary during the year 2024?

If so, you are invited to a celebration beginning with the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, May 5. A luncheon for all the celebrating couples will follow in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Katherine Von Bora Society.

There is no charge, but kindly RSVP by **Sunday, April 28th.**

Names:

We are celebrating our _____ Wedding Anniversary on _____

Please complete and return in the offering plate or to the Church Office by **Sunday, April 28.**

Thank You!

Souper Bowl of Caring collected money on Feb 10 and 11 after worship services.



tacklehunger.org

We collected:

Kansas City Chiefs: \$307.89
San Francisco 49ers: \$230.16

TOTAL: \$538.05

This money will be divided equally between Safe Harbor in Easton, an adult homeless shelter, and our local food bank.

Thank you for your caring and your generosity!

~The Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee

Helping Hands have painted the kitchen!

Thank you: Keith, Gail, Sandy, Gary Jackie, Scott, Pete and Nancy. Job well done!!



Thank You Church!

Our goal set via the Sunday School families and noisy offering on December 16 & 17 for the Good Gifts Animal Farm Challenge was to collect \$250, with the hopes of \$500 to partner with families in need around the world. Thanks to your partnership - we have exceeded that goal! A total of **\$973** was collected!! Amazing. We are so grateful to be able to purchase a Family Farm and Fish Farm.

The Family Farm includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training that will create a world of opportunities for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make all the difference to a family. The Fish Farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish and turns into benefits for an entire community with a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals and proteins. You have certainly made a difference! Thank you for your partnership and generosity.



A long over due thank you to those who supported the **"Vegetable Stand"**. This year we collected **\$222.50**. This money was donated back to our local Nazareth Area Food Bank.

Thank you for your contributions to the December special envelope collection for "Christmas Ingathering". A total of **\$630.69** was collected. This money helped to supply 250 gift bags for children at their Kids Peace facility and to support "The Kindness Project" in Emmaus. The "Kindness Project" helps to support the needs of children who are in foster care.

Click [here](#) to learn more about The Kindness Project. We are planning to continue our partnership with this important ministry with a donation drive this summer. Be watching future communications for more information.



Pastoral Acts



Baptisms

We rejoice with those who have been welcomed into the body of Christ through of Holy Baptism:

DANIKA JEANNE NUNNEMAKER

Daughter of Daniel & Michelle (Braunworth) Nunnemaker

Born: September 20, 2023

Baptized: February 24, 2024

JOSHUA MICHAEL DAVID PAAR

Son of Joshua & Angela (Setzer) Paar

Born: September 16, 2022

Baptized: February 10, 2024



New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who were received into membership on January 21, 2024:

MEL & AMY LANGFORD

(Rin & Alexa)

PAULETTE OBRECHT

SANDRA & RACHEL OLM

(Ryder & Hayden)



With Sympathy

Our heartfelt Christian sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following members and friends of St. John's who passed into eternal life:

JOHN R. UMSTEAD

DECEMBER 28, 2023

VICTOR L. PECKENSCHNEIDER

DECEMBER 28, 2023



Memorial Gifts

JOHN R. UMSTEAD

Thomas & Shari Derhammer

Edward & Betty Hansen

Carol Ritter

Roy & Gloria Roth

Alan Schmeltzle

T. Carol Schmeltzle



Nazareth Area Food Bank Donations

The Nazareth Food Bank will be accepting food donations again in March. Please bring donations to the church starting in March for April food distributions.



Suggested items are:

- **MARCH:** cereal, canned tuna, tomato sauce, large cans of soup, and oatmeal.
- **APRIL:** canned fruit, cereal, pasta, and baked beans.

Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship hall. Checks should be made payable to the **Nazareth Area Food Bank** and mailed to **PO Box 18, Nazareth, PA 18064**.

Thanks so much for all donations!

Special Offering



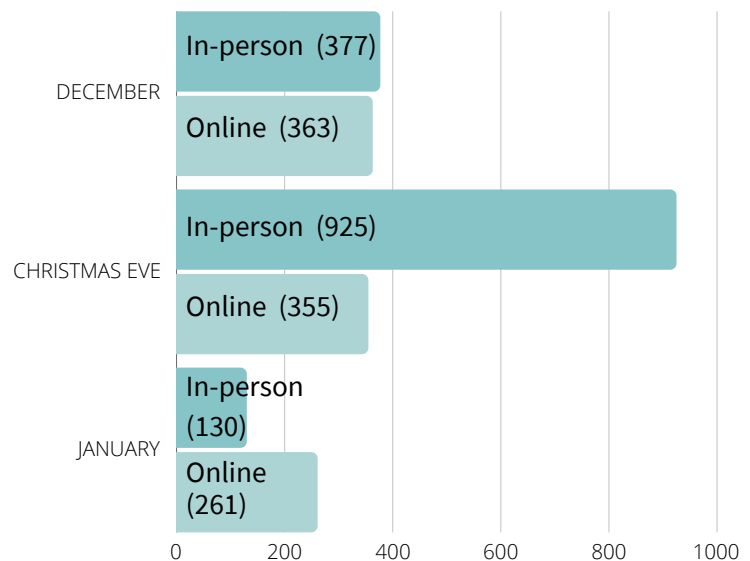
March: Chalice Choir Trip

April: Cemetery Perpetual Care

Scan the QR code
to donate
virtually



Average Worship Attendance



Church Council Minutes Highlights

Council Highlights November & December, 2023

Below you will find some highlights of the November and December 2023 council meetings. If you would like to read the council minutes in their entirety, please click [here](#) or request a copy from the church office.

- M.A.D. Camp performance of Fired Up! was fantastic.
- All of our visioning events have taken place and the Stewardship committee continues their work of naming our collective values, and preparing a guiding statement and tagline to be presented to the council and congregation.
- Due to attendance numbers, the mid-day Lenten worship services are no longer being held.
- Information is being gathered regarding sanctuary renovations. After all information is compiled and drawings are created, the congregation will be invited to give additional input.
- Louise Kroboth has been appointed to fill the open council position with a remainder of 2 years in the term.
- Haverford Systems will be present on January 18, 2024 to address the issues with the hearing-assistive devices.
- \$40,000 from the general fund was invested in a 6-month CD with Edward Jones.
- \$131,000 from the capital campaign was invested in a 6-month CD. \$8,000 from the Improvement Fund was invested in a money market fund. Both investments are through Edward Jones.
- Officers for council are:
 - Joyce Knecht, President
 - Ben Miller, Vice President
 - Nancy Tammi, Council Secretary
 - Eric Himler, Treasurer



St. John's Staff

Contact Us

200 S. Broad Street, Nazareth PA

Church Office: 610-759-3090 (See Church Extensions Below)

Fax: 610-759-3719 Email: Office@stjohnsnaz.org Website: www.stjohnsnaz.org

Church Staff	Email Address	Telephone	Church EXT.
Pastor of Stewardship: Rev. Scott A. Hall	prhall@stjohnsnaz.org	412-656-6436	103
Pastor of Discipleship: Rev. Jennifer Hall	prjennhall@stjohnsnaz.org	512-626-8238	101
Minister of Music: Rev. Janice I. Butz	jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org	610-759-3090	105
Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Jaime L. Taylor	jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org	610-759-3090	107
Assist. Organist/Choir Director: Deacon Patrice A. Kidd	pakidd58@gmail.com	610-349-0506	104
Parish Administrative Assistant: Linda Kasmakites	office@stjohnsnaz.org	610-759-3090	100
Parish Financial Secretary: Bonnie Mertz	finance@stjohnsnaz.org	610-759-3090	102
Communications Coordinator: Laurie Storlie	commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org	484-504-9925	N/A
Property Manager: Dean Brodt Sextons: Raymond Fogel, Bruce Knecht	sextons@stjohnsnaz.org	484-515-8016	N/A
Love-A-Lot Director: Andrea Miller	LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com	484-293-0720	N/A
St. John's Day Care Director: Carly Fantauzzi-Quinones	nazareth.stjohns@gmail.com	610-759-4999	N/A



If you have family members or loved ones that are in the hospital, please let the church office know. You can call us at:

610-759-3090 or email **office@stjohnsnaz.org**.

The deadline for all submissions for the 2024 May/June issue of *The Messenger* is Tuesday, April 9. Please email your article or announcements as a word document attached to **commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org** & **office@stjohnsnaz.org**. Thank you.

